

# JAPAN CHRISTIAN ACTIVITY NEWS

Chairman:  
Tsunetaro Miyakoda

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Editors:  
Kaname Tsukahara  
Peyton Palmore III

CABLE CODE: JAPACONCIL, ADDRESS: CHRISTIAN CENTER, 2,4-CHOME GINZA, TOKYO, JAPAN

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## In These Pages

Stanley Jones' Mission.....1	Lutheran Churches in Japan...3
Prison Chaplains.....2	The New Year at ICU.....3
Constructors of the New Century..2	Drs. Levett and Morris.....4
	New Christian Publications...4

### STANLEY JONES' MISSION - lay evangelism and three fingers

Although warned that the anti-US feeling in Japan had turned its edge against Christianity, Dr. Jones found that this was only somewhat true if measured in terms of response to his evangelistic mission. Completing his tour of 73 cities in less than three months, he finds that where preparation was equal to what it was on his last trip two years ago, attendance was as large and response in decision cards was almost as large.

His feeling is that while the evangelistic opportunity in Japan is not pressing at the doors of the church as it was just after the war, it is still there. If the church will be aggressive in its evangelistic outreach, it will find ample response.

To this end, one of his main appeals was for volunteer lay evangelists who would give their time to the essential work of the church: the spreading of the Gospel. Dr. Jones stated: "The Church will never be a strong one until it becomes a strong lay movement with a pastor as guide, stimulator, and spiritualizer of this essentially lay movement." Although he found some signs of an effort to defend the status quo on the margins, he felt the church as a whole is ready to respond to this appeal for lay participation in evangelism.

The theme of his sermons has been Jesus is Lord. As a symbol and simple reminder of this three-word theme he would hold aloft three fingers as a salutation. The symbol has caught on, and he was greeted and told goodbye at railroad stations by three fingers held up and a shout of "Iesuwa Shu Nare"!







The decision cards have had three alternative places to sign:

1) I don't know enough about Christianity now to be baptized but I want to be taught and prepared for baptism. 2) I have been in touch Christianity, and I decide now that I want to be baptized, and admitted to the Church. 3) I have been baptized but I have not been living a dedicated life. I want to become 100% Christian, giving my whole life in service. Under this last alternative, emphasis was put on the importance of regular prayer, regular Bible study, and efforts to pass on the Gospel to others. These volunteering for lay evangelism were urged to get in contact with their pastors and offer their service. Although the total number of these cards signed was not as great as last time (less than 20,000 as compared to 30,000), part of the reason is that he concentrated on small centers visiting fewer schools and large cities this time.

#### PRISON CHAPLAINS - "I was in prison but..."

There is grave danger that under a contemplated new ruling of the Government, Christian ministers will be denied free access to members and seekers within prison walls. The new ruling would restore the pre-war system whereby full time chaplains, appointed by the warden would be the only spiritual counsellors of the inmates. These chaplains would in all probability be mostly Buddhist. Under the pre-war closely regimented system, the inmates were required to bow before the prominently displayed Buddhist and Shinto god shelves, and Christian ministers did not have free entrance to the prisons.

After the war, the practice of officially appointing chaplains was discontinued but special persons were granted passes by the warden, so that they could visit and work among the prisoners. Under this system about 300 Christian ministers have been acitvely engaged in prison evangelism, and the results have been encouraging. As of two years ago there were 9,626 prisoners who were actively preparing for baptism.

The proposed ruling has caused great consternation among interested ministers, and the Tokyo Kyoku as well as the Prison Evangelism Commission of the Kyodan are investigating ways to prevent this exclusion. On May 10 and 11 prison workers from the Tokyo area will meet at the Tokyo Hongwanji Temple where the new ruling will be discussed with representatives from the Government office. Later in the month a nation-wide meeting will be held in Nagoya. Christian pastors will be represented at both of these meetings and will try to retain their permission to visit as ministers of the Gospel.

#### CONSTRUCTORS OF THE NEW CENTURY - sixth national youth week

May 22-9 will be National Christian Youth Week sponsored by the Youth Department of the National Christian Council. **The theme:** Constructors of the New Century, refers to the second century of Protestant Christian work in Japan which will start in 1960.







Youth councils and local youth fellowships are being urged to plan special prayer-meetings, Bible study and discussion groups, evangelistic meetings for youth, and work camps. A different subject for discussion for each day of the week has been set up by the Youth Department. More information on suggested activities can be received by writing to Rev. Masami Mizuno in the NCC office.

A Tokyo area Youth meeting to be held on May 29 (Pentecost Sunday) at 3 P.M. at Joshi Gakuin will include a communion service followed by a panel discussion.

#### LUTHERAN CHURCHES IN JAPAN - toward unity, but what kind and how?

The eleven Lutheran churches now working in Japan are carrying on exploratory discussions about the possibilities of uniting their efforts. Last year two commissions were formed; one to discuss matters of doctrine, and the other to discuss organizational matters such as the disposition of seminaries and recognition of ordinations.

On April 19, twenty five representatives of these denominations met in Kobe to report on the thinking that had gone on in their churches during the year and to explore the possibilities of church union. While there seems to be a general desire to unite in some form, union must proceed slowly on the basis of careful thinking and planning. The group will meet again next fall after reporting back to their member churches.

#### THE NEW YEAR AT ICU - new students, faculty, buildings and 8 cows

With the new incoming class this April, the enrollment at the International Christian University has increased from 353 to 490 students, and the number of faculty members (instructors and above) has increased from 58 to 71. Since last year new dormitories for 70 men, 52 women, and 10 single women teachers as well as a dining hall with capacity for 180 persons have been added.

To top this, there are 8 additional head of dairy cattle. If numbers are any indication of improvement, ICU is forging ahead!

Although at present, only 10% of the student body are non-Japanese, the hope is that in the future about 25% will be. There are two ways that these students come from abroad: Because of the large number of Chinese students desiring to enter, there is a special screening committee set up in Hongkong which administers tests sent from ICU and interviews the applicants. Students from other countries apply directly to the school. This year six students are coming from America. Dr. Yusa, President of ICU,







emphasized that these students do not come here for an interesting experience but are chosen for their ability to come as real student missionaries. Readers are urged to help channel possible candidates from abroad to The Registrar, 1500 Osawa, Mitaka-shi, Tokyo, Japan.

DRS. LEVETT AND MORRIS - educational evangelists to tour

From April 26 to June 20 two world traveling educational evangelists from Australia will be touring the Christian schools of Japan. Dr. Levett is a singing evangelist and Dr. Morris is a minister. They will speak in schools during the day and hold public evangelistic meetings at night.

Many color films of New Zealand, Australia, Switzerland and mission stations in Africa, as well as other audio visual equipment will go with them in their touring stationwagon. Missionaries or schools who would like to make use of their services may still make arrangements through Mr. Ebizawa at the NCC office.

NEW CHRISTIAN PUBLICATIONS

Handbook For Lay Evangelists Kyobunkwan, ¥450 27 chapters 500 pages. Includes five major divisions: I. The Heart of the Gospel; II. History of Christian Evangelism; III. Evangelism in Japan Today; IV. Methods of Evangelism Inside and Outside the Church; V. What Kind of Lay Leadership. Just the thing we've been needing to put in the hands of the volunteer lay evangelists.

Life Guidance Pamphlets (Jinsei Annai Pamphlets)  
Three new titles have just been added to the previous six which have become so popular. Suffering and Life, Miss Obara; Wine Tobacco and Narcotics, Mr. Yamamuro; What is the Right Belief, Mr. Hiyaue. Available at Kyobunkwan at ¥15 per copy.

Kamishibai The second volume of Life of Jesus (Iesu Sama no Issho, chukan) 12 fine pictures ¥300 from Kyobunkwan.

Guide to the Bible (Seisho Nyumon) Prof. Kazo Kitamori, Kawade Shobo Press, pocket size ¥80. Outline of the two testaments and explanation to young people how the Bible answers their life problems, written in a very easy style.



